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ing of the Suez Canal it is the door even to the Far East; it is the only port of the Rhone valley, and in addition, the port par excellence for the African possessions of France. While the regional opportunities, too, seem larger than those of any other French port, its regional function is not, however, as important. The passenger traffic alone is proportionate to it; but for freight the connections of the upper parts of the Rhone valley are much better via the Atlantic ports than downstream, where navigation is far from satisfactory. There is some danger that even the unexcelled commercial position of Marseilles may be shaken if the regional function, or the industrial, continues to be thus disregarded. For a great international port like this needs domestic traffic to keep the foreign trade going, and of the domestic kind, Marseilles has too little for modern conditions. Like Bordeaux, Marseilles has begun, therefore, to supplement its business by industrial pursuits, but they suffer from the lack of adequate facilities for transportation from the factory to the port, which often costs as much as the freight all the way from Marseilles to the Black Sea, as almost all the goods must be carted. The construction of a barge canal is therefore under discussion, and there is no doubt that in this way the whole region would receive a new impetus which would considerably benefit the business of the port.

M. K. GENTHE.

GENERAL

Geographisches Jahrbuch. XXXIII. Band, 1910. Herausgegeben von Hermann Wagner. Gotha, Justus Perthes, 1910. 472 pp. 15 marks. 9 x 5½.

The current edition of this indispensable summary of the literature of all branches of geography is mainly devoted to general geography. The progress made in cartography (projections, map drawing, cartometry) in 1906-08 is reviewed by Dr. H. Haack (pp. 119-204); in dynamic geology in 1903-04 by Dr. E. Tams, pp. 79-118 (this division represents a part of the section formerly entitled "Fortschritte der Geophysik der Erdrinde," edited by Prof. E. Rudolph); in regional geology in 1907-09, by Prof. Toula (pp. 205-314); in oceanography in 1903-09, by Dr. L. Mecking, pp. 395-454 (formerly in the hands of Prof. Krümmel); in geographic meteorology in 1906-08, by Dr. W. Gerbing (pp. 3-78); in plant geography in 1905-09, by Dr. L. Diels, pp. 315-394 (a section that has been in Prof. Drude's hands for nearly 30 years). The usual systematic index of the whole cycle embraced by the summaries of the *Jahrbuch* enables one to determine in which volume is to be found the most recent review of any given subject.

W. L. G. J.

Vergleichende Untersuchungen über Flussdichte. Von Ernst Puls. Dissertation, Universität Kiel. pp. 39. Hamburg, 1910. 9 x 5½.

An investigation of the density of the drainage systems of certain typical districts, based on planimetric and curvilinear measurement, respectively, of their areas and their water courses. Drainage density is represented by the quotient of the area of a district divided by the length of its water courses. Two districts in the Northern Plain and five in the Central Highlands of Germany are discussed together with one example each of an Alpine and a Mediterranean district as represented by the region adjoining the Jungfrau and by the province of Attica.

W. L. G. J.